

NEWS RELEASE

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

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**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

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For Immediate Release

Applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be “Batched” for Funding October 15, 2004

BISMARCK, ND, June 8, 2004 -- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts applications throughout the year for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Periodically, NRCS will gather the applications on file and consider them for funding. For Fiscal Year 2005 funds, this will occur on October 15, 2004. Applicants compete for funding based on the environmental benefit the project will have toward national, State, and local resource concerns.

EQIP is a voluntary program that allows agricultural producers to address both local natural resource needs and national resource priorities. Federal funding shares the cost with farmers and ranchers for installing conservation practices to improve animal waste management, irrigation water management, grazing land, soil erosion and sediment control, and other environmental concerns.

For additional information on EQIP or other NRCS conservation programs, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/> or contact your local NRCS office.

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